WE CLAIM

1.   Signal processing apparatus in which at least two sets of automated signal processing functions are controlled by stored automation commands, at times dependent upon at least two respective timecode signals.

2.   Apparatus according to claim 1, in which each said timecode signal is associated with a respective source signal supplied to said signal processing apparatus.

3.   Apparatus according to claim 1, said apparatus being an audio mixing console.

4.   Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising means for receiving automation commands, each comprising an automation control command and information specifying one of said timecode signals.

5.   Apparatus according to claim 4, in which said receiving means comprises means for retrieving automation commands stored on a storage medium.

6.   Apparatus according to claim 5, in which said storage medium is a magnetic disk medium, a magnetic tape medium, or an optical disk medium.

7.   Apparatus according to claim 5, comprising means for recording and/or retrieving an automation database on said storage medium, said automation database specifying said automation points within said signal processing apparatus on which said stored automation commands were generated.

8.   Apparatus according to claim 7, comprising means for comparing said retrieved automation database with an automation database associated with said apparatus, to detect whether said stored automation commands are compatible with said apparatus.

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9.   Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

means, responsive to a detection of an automation command in a current set of automation commands calling a further set of automation commands, for initiating execution of said further set of automation commands.

10.   Apparatus according to claim 1, in which said automation commands specify respective control quantities to be applied to a source signal.

11.   Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising means for recording automation commands on a storage medium, together with information identifying a respective timecode associated with each automation command.

12.   Signal processing apparatus in which automated signal processing functions are controlled by stored automation commands, said apparatus comprising means, responsive to a detection of an automation command in a current set of automation commands calling a further set of automation commands, for initiating execution of said further set of automation commands.

13.   Signal processing apparatus in which automated signal processing functions are controlled by stored automation commands, said automation commands specifying respective control quantities to be applied to a source signal.

14.   A storage medium on which automation commands for a signal processing apparatus are stored, each stored automation command having associated stored information specifying one of at least two timecode signals.

15.   A storage medium according to claim 14, on which an automation database is stored, said automation database specifying said automation points within said signal processing apparatus on which said stored automation commands were generated.

16.   A storage medium on which automation commands for an automated

signal processing apparatus and an automation database are stored, said automation database specifying automation points within said signal processing apparatus on which said stored automation commands were generated.

17.   A storage medium according to claim 14, said storage medium being a magnetic disk medium, a magnetic tape medium or an optical disk medium.

18.   A method of translating automation commands generated at a first command rate on a first automated signal processing apparatus into automation commands at a second command rate for use on a second automated signal processing apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

sample-rate converting said automation commands from said first command rate to said second command rate; and

mapping said sample-rate converted automation commands into equivalent commands for use on said second automated signal processing apparatus.

19.   A method of translating automation commands stored on a storage medium and generated on a first automated signal processing apparatus into automation commands for use on a second automated signal processing apparatus, said storage medium storing an automation database specifying automation points within said first automated signal processing apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving said automation database;

comparing said retrieved automation database with a second automation database associated with said second apparatus, to generate a mapping table defining a mapping of said automation commands generated on said first apparatus to automation commands for use on said second apparatus; and

translating, in accordance with said mapping table, said stored automation commands into automation commands for use on said second apparatus.